



The President's Daily Brief

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Sunday 4/30/71

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PDB BRIEF

30/4/72

WEST GERMANY

Leaders of three main political parties met for four and a half hours on Friday night, but failed to resolve the government crisis. Spokesmen for both the government parties and the opposition characterized the talks as "sensible and solid," but admitted that the two sides were not close to agreement. Discussions are scheduled to resume again before noon on Wednesday.

The talks apparently focused primarily on the Moscow treaty, the crucial subjects of German self-determination and reunification, and further improvement of travel arrangements with the East Germans.

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There could be a third vote on the budget bill on 2 May when the parliament is scheduled to reconvene. The government, however, most likely will try to delay this to avoid a possible defeat just prior to the voting on the Eastern treaties.

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PDB BRIEF
30/4/72

SOUTH VIETNAM - NORTH VIETNAM

Government troops repulsed a North Vietnamese tank and infantry attack from the southern outskirts of Quang Tri City yesterday, but the situation there remains critical. The city, now reported to be isolated, continues under artillery and rocket fire. The North Vietnamese have [] tanks in the surrounding area and may have brought in a third tank regiment. Additional forces have been skirting the provincial capital and heading south toward Hue. So far, however, the Communists in Thua Thien Province have not followed up their success at Fire Support Base Bastogne by attacking farther east.

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The Communists are continuing their pressure on the provinces to the south along the central coast.

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The Communists are now reported to control substantial portions of districts in Quang Tin Province to the west of Route 1, and they are continuing to attack refugee centers in the eastern areas

of adjacent Quang Ngai. With the fall of Bong Son this weekend, the Communists have gained control of almost all of the northernmost district of Binh Dinh Province.

The Communists may have resumed their drive on Kontum City in the central highlands. Enemy infantry forces probed a South Vietnamese artillery support base a few miles north of the city on 29 April and also ambushed a government resupply convoy in the same area. Several rocket rounds also hit the Kontum City airfield. The South Vietnamese reportedly have abandoned their defensive positions in the Vo Dinh area and are now regrouping about six miles north of the city. A second regiment of the Communist 320th Division has moved into position about ten miles north of Kontum City and intercepts suggest that other elements of the 320th are deploying in preparation to attack the city.

The threat to An Loc north of Saigon continues to ease, but the Communists appear to be taking advantage of the government forces pinned down in that area to increase action elsewhere. On the west, enemy forces launched a number of ground probes yesterday near Tay Ninh City and mounted an attack with tanks against a South Vietnamese post on Route 1 at the Cambodian border. Radio direction finding also shows that elements of the Communist 9th Division have shifted from An Loc into Phuoc Long Province

Vietnam-2

on the east and that 5th Division elements have moved southward into Binh Duong Province.

Press reports state that North Vietnamese politburo member Le Duc Tho arrived in Moscow yesterday from Peking, presumably for another two-day stopover en route to Paris. The Soviets and North Vietnamese have also announced that a Soviet delegation, headed by party secretary Katushev and Deputy Foreign Minister Firyubin, visited Hanoi from 26 to 29 April. Both announcements describe the visit as an official one made "in accordance with a previous arrangement," and report that cordial meetings were held with North Vietnamese leaders to discuss "strengthening bilateral relations" and "questions of mutual interest."

Vietnam-3

PDB NOTE
30/4/72

NOTE

Laos: Government forces regained control of Skyline Ridge overlooking Long Tieng on 29 April. About 100 irregulars with air support cleared the two positions that had remained in enemy hands at the center of the ridge. North Vietnamese opposition was relatively light, strengthening indications in recent intercepts that the Communists are withdrawing some of their forces in the area in preparation for the coming rainy season. The situation elsewhere in Laos remains relatively quiet, with only scattered clashes being reported from points in the panhandle.

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PDB NOTE
30/4/72

NOTE

Turkey: Senator Suat Hayri Urgupulu, appointed prime minister-designate on 29 April, is an independent with former ties to the Republican Peoples Party. He served for nine months as prime minister in 1965. Urgupulu has announced that he intends to form an "above parties" government of ministers chosen from the four principal parties represented in parliament. His attitude toward the US has been friendly although he was critical in 1970 of what he termed unwarranted US pressure to restrict opium poppy cultivation, a subject on which he has since been silent.

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